C1715-26(1)a

news

431 Howard Street · Detroit, Michigan 48231 · 961-9470

from R.L.Polk&Co.

IMMEDIATE RELEASE March 12, 1984

MEDIAN AGE OF AUTOS RISES DESPITE SURGE IN NEW CAR SALES

(DETROIT) -- Although new car registrations in the year ended June 30, 1983, increased for the first time since 1979, more Americans held onto their older models longer than at any time since 1950.

The median age of the U. S. automobile population hit 6.5 years in 1983, up from 6.2 years in the previous year and from 4.9 years in 1970.

Those are among the conclusions of R. L. Polk & Co., automotive industry statistician, based on registrations filed as of June 30 of last year, the most recent available.

"Despite the welcome turnaround in sales that caused an encouraging increase in new car registrations, the aging process continued," said Joseph C. Cirrincione, vice president - assistant general manager of Polk's Motor Statistical Division.

More than 8.33 million new cars were registered between July 1, 1982 and June 30, 1983 -- an increase of 387,000 over the previous year. At the same time, the number of cars 15 or more years of age grew by 1.08 million to a record 7.9 million registered.

"New cars definitely are an attraction again, and we're expecting many older models will be replaced soon," Cirrincione said. "Not only have economic conditions encouraged Americans to keep their cars longer, but the built in quality and the price and availability of replacement parts have extended the lives of those cars."

-more-

Other highlights of the R. L. Polk report:

* The registered passenger car population of the United States was 108.9 million on June 30, 1983, up 2.09 million from the previous year.

* The total increase in the car population was 2.0 percent, the greatest growth since 1977-78, but still well behind the average rate of 3.2 percent annually in the decade that ended in mid-1976.

* 6.2 million cars were not reregistered during the year ending last June 30, and are presumed to have been scrapped. This compares with 6.9 million autos scrapped in the previous year and with the all-time scrappage total of 9.3 million during 1978-79.

* Automobiles not reregistered during the period amounted to 5.8 percent of the car population, the smallest percentage since 1958-59 and a seven-tenths percent drop from 1981-82.

"The median age of the U. S. car population has been increasing steadily since 1970," Cirrincione said. "And since 1975, the median age of the American truck fleet has increased from 5.8 to 7.2 years."

Cirrincione pointed out that the number of trucks in use in the U. S. hit an all-time high of 38.14 million in mid-1983, up 1.16 million from one year earlier and reversed a three-year decline in growth rates. At 2.65 million, the number of new truck registrations was its highest since mid-1980. And at 1.5 million, the number of trucks scrapped was slightly greater than mid-1982, but still well below the all-time high of 1.92 million sent to the scrappers in 1978-79.

###

For further information: Joseph C. Cirrincione, R. L. Polk & Co.
(313) 961-9470

news

431 Howard Street · Detroit, Michigan 48231 · 961-9470

from R.L.Polk&Co.

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 12, 1984

TRUCK REGISTRATIONS SOAR IN U.S., BUT MEDIAN AGE HIGHEST SINCE 1965

(DETROIT) - The number of trucks in use in the United States increased sharply in the year ended June 30, 1983, spurred by increased sales. But at the same time the fleet grew older, hitting its highest median age since 1965.

"Truck registrations had been growing at a reduced pace for three years until the 1982-83 period when they jumped 1.16 million," said Joseph C. Cirrincione, vice president - assistant general manager of the Motor Statistical Division of R. L. Polk & Co., automotive industry statistician.

"The number of trucks in use was 38.14 million in mid-1983, and at 2.65 million, the number of new truck registrations was at its highest level since 1980," Cirrincione said.

The median age of the U. S. truck population was 7.2 years, up from 6.8 years in mid-1982 and from 5.9 in 1970. As recently as 1975, the median age was 5.8 years.

"It's worth noting that the number of trucks taken out of service or scrapped hit 1.5 million in 1982-83, a slight increase from the previous year, but still well below the all-time high of 1.9 million retired in 1978-79," Cirrincione said.

Thirty-three percent of the trucks in use in the U. S. are ten years old or older, while only four years earlier just 26 percent of the registered trucks were a decade old. Between mid-1982 and mid-1983, the number of trucks in that age group grew by three percent.

-more-

"There also has been a steady increase in the number of registered trucks 15 years of age and older," Cirrincione pointed out. "Since mid-1978, the percentage of trucks in that category has grown from 10.0 to 12.9. In raw numbers, that's an increase of 1.9 million trucks."

"The growth in new truck registrations continued for the second consecutive year in 1982-83 after a dip in 1980-81, but the scrappage rate has remained in the four percent range in the past three years. So, for a variety of economic and mechanical reasons, truck users are buying new models while holding on to older ones," Cirrincione said.

The 7.2 year median age for the truck fleet compares with the 6.5 median for the passenger car population, according to the Polk data assembled from registrations as of June 30 of last year, the most recent available.

More than 8.33 million new cars were registered during the year ended June 30, 1983, an increase of 387 thousand from the previous period. More than 6.2 million cars were removed from the registration rolls, a drop of 679 thousand. That means an all-time record 109 million cars were on the road.

###

For further information: Joseph C. Cirrincione, R. L. Polk & Co.
(313) 961-9470

PASSENGER CAR SCRAPPAGE AND GROWTH IN THE U.S.

CARS IN USE		CARS IN USE		GROWTH OF CARS IN USE DURING PERIOD	NEW CARS REGISTERED 7/1 - 6/30	CARS SCRAPPED DURING PERIOD	GROWTH % OF CARS IN USE	SCRAPPAGE % OF NEW CARS REGIS. DURING PERIOD	SCRAPPAGE % OF CARS IN USE ON JULY 1
JULY 1, 1946	25,142,628	JUNE 30, 1947	27,521,395	2,378,767	2,856,815	478,048	9.5	16.7	1.9
JULY 1, 1947	27,521,395	JUNE 30, 1948	29,967,719	2,446,324	3,301,841	855,517	8.9	25.9	3.1
JULY 1, 1948	29,967,719	JUNE 30, 1949	32,730,718	2,762,999	3,983,040	1,220,041	9.2	30.6	4.1
JULY 1, 1949	32,730,718	JUNE 30, 1950	35,923,583	3,192,865	5,506,678	2,313,813	9.8	42.0	7.1
JULY 1, 1950	35,923,583	JUNE 30, 1951	38,515,538	2,591,955	6,305,372	3,713,417	7.7	58.9	10.3
JULY 1, 1951	38,515,538	JUNE 30, 1952	39,769,741	1,254,203	4,392,192	3,137.989	3.3	71.4	8.1
JULY 1, 1952	39,769,741	JUNE 30, 1953	42,202,349	2,432,608	4,898,544	2,465,936	6.1	50.3	6.2
JULY 1, 1953	42,202,349	JUNE 30, 1954	44,387,113	2,184,764	5,675,764	3,491,000	5.2	61.5	8.3
JULY 1, 1954	44,387,113	JUNE 30, 1955	47,377,970	2,990,857	6,238,293	3,247,436	6.7	52.1	7.3
JULY 1, 1955	47,377.970	JUNE 30, 1956	49,803,977	2,426.007	6,738,766	4,312,759	5.1	64.0	9.1
JULY 1, 1956	49,803,977	JUNE 30, 1957	51,432,460	1,628,483	5,937,636	4,309,153	3.3	72.6	8.7
JULY 1, 1957	51,432,460	JUNE 30, 1958	52,492,509	1,060,049	5,281,656	4,221,607	2.1	79.9	8.2
JULY 1, 1958	52,492,509	JUNE 30, 1959	55,086,761	2,594,252	5,575,893	2,981,641	4.9	53.5	5.7
JULY 1, 1959	55,086,761	JUNE 30, 1960	57,102,676	2,015,915	6,364,634	4,348,719	3.7	68.3	7.9
JULY 1, 1960	57,102,676	JUNE 30, 1961	58,854,380	1,751,704	6,045,822	4,294,118	3.1	71.0	7.5
JULY 1, 1961	58,854,380	JUNE 30, 1962	60,919,579	2,065,199	6,425,973	4,360,774	3.5	67.9	7.4
JULY 1, 1962	60,919,579	JUNE 30, 1963	63,493,277	2,573,698	7,314,715	4,741,017	4.2	64.8	7.8
JULY 1, 1963	63,493,277	JUNE 30, 1964	66,051,415	2,558,138	7,877,424	5,319,286	4.0	67.5	8.4
JULY 1, 1964	66,051,415	JUNE 30, 1965	68,939,770	2,888,355	8,592,728	5,704,373	4.4	66.4	8.6
JULY 1, 1965	68,939,770	JUNE 30, 1966	71,263,738	3,023,968	9,197,480	6,173,512	4.4	67.1	9.0
JULY 1, 1966	71,263,738	JUNE 30, 1967	72,967,686	1,703,948	8,688,162	6,984,214	2.4	80.4	9.8
JULY 1, 1967	72,967,686	JUNE 30, 1968	75,358,034	2,390,348	8,590,365	6,200,017	3.3	72.2	8.5
JULY 1, 1968	75,358,034	JUNE 30, 1969	78,494,938	3,136,904	9,485,392	6,348,488	4.2	66.9	8.4
JULY 1, 1969	78,494,938	JUNE 30, 1970	80,448,463	1,953,525	9,414,509	7,460,984	2.5	79.2	9.5
JULY 1, 1970	80,448,463	JUNE 30, 1971	83,137,324	2,688,861	8,709,902	6,021,041	3.3	69.1	7.5
JULY 1, 1971	83,137,324	JUNE 30, 1972	86,438,957	3,120,633	10,178,662	7,058.029	3.8	69.3	8.5
JULY 1, 1972	86,438,957	JUNE 30, 1973	89,805,159	3,366,202	11,353,586	7,987,384	3.9	70.4	9.2
JULY 1, 1973	89,805,159	JUNE 30, 1974	92,607,551	2,802,392	9,996,071	7,193,679	3.1	72.0	8.0
JULY 1, 1974	92,607,551	JUNE 30, 1975	95,240,602	2,633,051	8,301 759	5,668,708	2,8	68,3	6.1
JULY 1, 1975	95,240,602	JUNE 30, 1976	97,818,221	2,577,619	9,406,522	6,828,903	2.7	72.6	7.2
JULY 1, 1976	97,818,221	JUNE 30, 1977	99,903,594	2,085,373	10,319,298	8,233,925	2.1	79.8	8.4
JULY 1, 1977	99,903,594	JUNE 30, 1978	102,956,713	3,053,119	10,960,194	7,907,075	3.1	72.1	7.9
JULY 1, 1978	102,956,713	JUNE 30, 1979	104,676,507	1,719,794	11,032,068	9,312,274	1.7	84.4	9.0
JULY 1, 1979	103,365,589*	JUNE 30, 1980	104,563,781	1,198,192	9,603,185	8,404,993	1.2	87.5	8.1
JULY 1, 1980	104,563,781	JUNE 30, 1981	105,838,582	1,274,801	8,817,281	7,542,480	1.2	85.5	7.2
JULY 1, 1981	105,838,582	JUNE 30, 1982	106,867,108	1,028,526	7,949,799	6,921,273	1.0	87.1	6.5
JULY 1, 1982	106,867,108	JUNE 30, 1983	108,961,215	2,094,107	8,336,651	6,242,544	2.0	74.9	5.8

NOTE: ADJUSTMENTS FOR THE ABSENCE OF OKLAHOMA AND OTHER STATES HAVE BEEN MADE WHERE APPLICABLE.

* THE CAR IN USE TOTAL AS OF JULY 1, 1979 HAS BEEN ADJUSTED (REDUCED) TO REFLECT THE TRANSFER OF 1,310,918 WINDOW VANS FROM THE PASSENGER CAR TOTAL TO THE TRUCK TOTAL. (BY INDUSTRY STANDARDS WINDOW VANS WERE RECLASSIFIED - EFFECTIVE 1980.)

R. L. POLK & CO.
MOTOR STATISTICAL DIVISION

TRUCK SCRAPPAGE AND GROWTH IN THE U.S.

TRUCKS IN USE		TRUCKS IN USE		GROWTH OF TRUCKS IN USE DURING PERIOD	NEW TRUCKS REGISTERED 7/1 - 6/30	TRUCKS SCRAPPED DURING PERIOD	GROWTH % OF TRUCK IN USE	SCRAPPAGE % OF NEW TRUCKS REGIS. DURING PERIOD	SCRAPPAGE % OF TRUCKS IN USE ON JULY 1
JULY 1, 1946	5,068,792	JUNE 30, 1947	5,932,381	863,589	827,261	(36,328)	17.0	4.4	.7
JULY 1, 1947	5,932,381	JUNE 30, 1948	6,605,290	672,909	980,569	307,660	11.3	31.4	5.2
JULY 1, 1948	6,605,290	JUNE 30, 1949	7,087,128	481,838	966,083	484,245	7.3	50.1	7.3
JULY 1, 1949	7,087,128	JUNE 30, 1950	7,577,037	489,909	1,006,963	517,054	6.9	51.3	7.3
JULY 1, 1950	7,577,037	JUNE 30, 1951	8,064,883	487,846	1,147,854	660,008	6.4	57.5	8.7
JULY 1, 1951	8,064,883	JUNE 30, 1952	8,419,855	354,972	886,807	531,835	4.4	60.0	6.6
JULY 1, 1952	8,419,855	JUNE 30, 1953	8,692,574	272,719	888,651	615,932	3.2	69.3	7.3
JULY 1, 1953	8,692,574	JUNE 30, 1954	8,800,408	107,834	888,347	780,513	1.2	87.9	9.0
JULY 1, 1954	8,800,408	JUNE 30, 1955	9,162,444	362,036	829,695	467,659	4.1	56.4	5.3
JULY 1, 1955	9,162,444	JUNE 30, 1956	9,544,082	381,638	977,895	596,257	4.2	61.0	6.5
JULY 1, 1956	9.544,082	JUNE 30, 1957	9,775,950	231,868	862,171	630,303	2.4	73.1	6.6
JULY 1, 1957	9,775,950	JUNE 30, 1958	10,056,567	280,617	782,862	502,245	2.9	64.2	5.1
JULY 1, 1958	10,056,567	JUNE 30, 1959	10,532,145	457,578	847,663	372,085	4.7	43.9	3.7
JULY 1, 1959	10,532,145	JUNE 30, 1960	10,802,959	270,814	961,382	690,568	2.6	71.8	6.6
JULY 1, 1960	10,802,959	JUNE 30, 1961	11,042,770	239.811	886,602	646,791	2.2	73.0	6.0
JULY 1, 1961	11,042,770	JUNE 30, 1962	11,463,381	420,611	996,514	575,903	3.8	57.8	5.2
JULY 1, 1962	11,463,381	JUNE 30, 1963	11,902,039	438,658	1,158,697	720,039	3.8	62.1	6.3
JULY 1, 1963	11,902,039	JUNE 30, 1964	12,444,964	542,925	1,322,795	779,870	4.6	59.0	6.6
JULY 1, 1964	12,444,964	JUNE 30, 1965	13,126,579	681,615	1,417,590	735,975	5.5	51.9	5.9
JULY 1, 1965	13,126,579	JUNE 30, 1966	14,356,591	530,012	1,603,605	1,073,593	4.0	66.9	8.2
JULY 1, 1966	14,356,591	JUNE 30, 1967	14,988,491	631,900	1,578,549	946,649	4.4	60.0	6.6
JULY 1, 1967	14,988,491	JUNE 30, 1968	15,684,917	696,426	1,556,968	860,542	4.6	55.3	5.7
JULY 1, 1968	15,684,917	JUNE 30, 1969	16,586,368	901,451	1,867,454	966,003	5.7	51.7	6.2
JULY 1, 1969	16,586,368	JUNE 30, 1970	17,687,505	1,101,137	1,938,310	837,173	6.6	43.2	5.0
JULY 1, 1970	17,687,505	JUNE 30, 1971	18,462,287	774,782	1,818,659	1,043,877	4.4	57.4	5.9
JULY 1, 1971	18,462,287	JUNE 30, 1972	19,772,938	1,310,651	2,358,682	1,048,031	7.1	44.4	5.7
JULY 1, 1972	19,772,938	JUNE 30, 1973	21,411,931	1,638,993	2,846,529	1,207,536	8.3	42.4	6.1
JULY 1, 1973	21,411,931	JUNE 30, 1974	23,312,245	1,900,314	2,947,521	1,047.207	8.9	35.5	4.9
JULY 1, 1974	23,312,245	JUNE 30, 1975	24,812,843	1,500,598	2,408,297	907,699	6.4	37.7	3.9
JULY 1. 1975	24,812,843	JUNE 30, 1976	26,560,296	1,747,453	2,844,910	1,097,457	7.0	38.6	4.4
JULY 1, 1976	26,560,296	JUNE 30, 1977	28,221,661	1,661,365	3,329,018	1,667,653	6.3	50.1	6.3
JULY 1, 1977	28,221,661	JUNE 30, 1978	30,564,701	2,343,040	3,769,334	1,426,294	8.3	37.8	5.1
JULY 1, 1978	30,564,701	JUNE 30, 1979	32,582,991	2,018,290	3,934,432	1,916,142	6.6	48.7	6.3
JULY 1, 1979	33,893,909*	JUNE 30, 1980	35,267,535	1,373,626	3,105,296	1,731,670	4.1	55.8	5.1
JULY 1, 1980	35,267,535	JUNE 30, 1981	36,069,197	801,662	2,320,208	1,518,546	2.3	65.4	4.3
JULY 1, 1981	36,069,197	JUNE 30, 1982	36,986,537	917,340	2,376,135	1,458,795	2.5	61.4	4.0
JULY 1, 1982	36,986,537	JUNE 30, 1983	38,143,304	1,156,767	2,647,738	1,490,971	3.1	56.3	4.0

NOTE: ADJUSTMENTS FOR THE ABSENCE OF OKLAHOMA AND OTHER STATES HAVE BEEN MADE WHERE APPLICABLE.

* THE TRUCKS IN USE TOTAL AS OF JULY 1, 1979 HAS BEEN ADJUSTED (INCREASED) TO REFLECT THE TRANSFER OF 1,310,918 WINDOW VANS FROM THE PASSENGER CAR TOTAL TO THE TRUCK TOTAL. (BY INDUSTRY STANDARDS, WINDOW VANS WERE RECLASSIFIED - EFFECTIVE 1980.)

R. L. POLK & CO
MOTOR STATISTICAL DIVISION

TOTAL PASSENGER CAR & TRUCK SCRAPPAGE AND GROWTH IN THE U.S.

VEHICLES IN USE		VEHICLES IN USE		GROWTH OF VEHICLES IN USE DURING PERIOD	NEW VEHICLES REGISTERED 7/1 - 6/30	VEHICLES SCRAPPED DURING PERIOD	GROWTH % OF VECHILES IN USE	SCRAPPAGE % OF NEW VEHICLES REGIS DURING PERIOD	SCRAPPAGE % OF VEHICLES IN USE ON JULY 1
JULY 1, 1946	30,211,420	JUNE 30, 1947	33,453,776	3,242,356	3,684,076	441,720	10.7	12.0	1.5
JULY 1, 1947	33,453,776	JUNE 30, 1948	36,573,009	3,119,233	4,282,410	1,163,177	9.3	27.2	3.5
JULY 1, 1948	36,573,009	JUNE 30, 1949	39,817,846	3,244,837	4,949,123	1,704,286	8.9	34.4	4.7
JULY 1, 1949	39,817,846	JUNE 30, 1950	43,500,620	3,682,774	6,513,641	2,830,867	9.2	43.5	7.1
JULY 1, 1950	43,500,620	JUNE 30, 1951	46,580,421	3,079,801	7,453,226	4,373,425	7.1	58.7	10.1
JULY 1, 1951	46,580,421	JUNE 30, 1952	48,189,596	1,609,175	5,278,999	3,669,824	3.5	69.5	7.9
JULY 1, 1952	48,189,596	JUNE 30, 1953	50,894,923	2,705,327	5,787,195	3,081,868	5.6	53.3	6.4
JULY 1, 1953	50,894,923	JUNE 30, 1954	53,187,521	2,292,598	6,564,111	4,271,513	4.5	65.1	8.4
JULY 1, 1954	53,187,521	JUNE 30, 1955	56,540,414	3,352,893	7,067,988	3,715,095	6.3	52.6	7.0
JULY 1, 1955	56,540,414	JUNE 30, 1956	59,348.059	2,807,645	7,716,661	4,909,016	5.0	63.6	8.7
JULY 1, 1956	59,348.059	JUNE 30, 1957	61,208,410	1,860,351	6,799,807	4,939,456	3.1	72.6	8.3
JULY 1, 1957	61,208,410	JUNE 30, 1958	62,549,076	1,340,666	6,064,518	4,723,852	2.2	77.9	7.7
JULY 1, 1958	62,549,076	JUNE 30, 1959	65,618,906	3,069,830	6,423,556	3,353,726	4.9	52.2	5.4
JULY 1, 1959	65,618,906	JUNE 30, 1960	67,905,635	2,286,729	7,326,016	5,039,287	3.5	68.8	7.7
JULY 1, 1960	67,905,635	JUNE 30, 1961	69,897,150	1,991,515	6,932,424	4,940,909	2.9	71.3	7.3
JULY 1, 1961	69,897,150	JUNE 30, 1962	72,382,960	2,485,810	7,422,487	4,936,677	3.6	66.5	7.1
JULY 1, 1962	72,382,960	JUNE 30, 1963	75,395,316	3,012,356	8,473,412	5,461,056	4.2	64.4	7.5
JULY 1, 1963	75,395,316	JUNE 30, 1964	78,496,379	3,101,063	9,200,219	6,099,156	4.1	66.3	8.1
JULY 1. 1964	78,496,379	JUNE 30, 1965	82,066,349	3,569,970	10,010,318	6,440,348	4.5	64.3	8.2
JULY 1, 1965	82,066,349	JUNE 30, 1966	85,620,329	3,553,980	10,801,085	7,247.105	4.3	67.1	8.8
JULY 1, 1966	85,620,329	JUNE 30, 1967	87,956,177	2,335,848	10,266,711	7,930,863	2.7	77.2	9.3
JULY 1, 1967	87,956,177	JUNE 30, 1968	91,042,951	3,086,774	10,147,333	7,060,559	3.5	69.6	8.0
JULY 1, 1968	91,042,951	JUNE 30, 1969	95,081,306	4,038,355	11,352,846	7,314,491	4.4	64.4	8.0
JULY 1, 1969	95,081,306	JUNE 30, 1970	98,135,968	3,054,662	11,352,819	8,298,157	3.2	73.1	8.7
JULY 1, 1970	98,135,968	JUNE 30, 1971	101,599,611	3,463,643	10,528,561	7,064,918	3.5	67.1	7.2
JULY 1, 1971	101,599,611	JUNE 30, 1972	106,211,895	4,431,284	12,537,344	8,106,060	4.4	64.7	8.0
JULY L, 1972	106,211,895	JUNE 30, 1973	111,217,090	5,005,195	14,200,115	9,194,920	4.7	64.8	8.7
JULy 1, 1973	111,217.090	JUNE 30, 1974	115,919,796	4,702,706	12,943,592	8,240,886	4.2	63.7	7.4
JULY 1, 1974	115,919,796	JUNE 30, 1975	120,053,445	4,133,649	10,710,056	6,576,407	3.6	61.4	5.7
JULY 1, 1975	120,053,445	JUNE 30, 1976	124,378,517	4,325,072	12,251,432	7,926,360	3.6	64.7	6.6
JULY 1, 1976	124,378,517	JUNE 30, 1977	128,125,255	3,746,738	13,648,316	9,901,578	3.0	72.5	8.0
JULY 1, 1977	128,125,255	JUNE 30, 1978	133,521,414	5,396,159	14,729,528	9,333,369	4.2	63.4	7.3
JULY 1, 1978	133,521,414	JUNE 30, 1979	137,259,498	3,738,084	14,966,500	11,228,416	2.8	75.0	8.4
JULY 1, 1979	137,259,498	JUNE 30, 1980	139,831,316	2,571,818	12,708,481	10,136,663	1.9	79.8	7.4
JULY 1, 1980	139,831,316	JUNE 30, 1981	141,907,779	2,076,463	11,137,489	9,061,026	1.5	81.4	6.5
JULY 1, 1981	141,907,779	JUNE 30, 1982	143,853,645	1,945,866	10,325,934	8,380,068	1.4	81.2	5.9
JULY 1, 1982	143,853,645	JUNE 30, 1983	147,104,519	3,250,874	10,984,389	7,733,515	2.3	70.4	5.4

NOTE: ADJUSTMENTS FOR THE ABSENCE OF OKLAHOMA AND OTHER STATES HAVE BEEN MADE WHERE APPLICABLE.

R. L. POLK & CO.
MOTOR STATISTICAL DIVISION